

# The Wish Fairy



Too Many Cats!

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# Chapter 1

**F**riday after school, Brooke burst out the door into her backyard and found her cat lounging in a sunbeam. “Hey, Patches, race you to the meadow!”

Patches yawned and rolled over.

Brooke nudged the furry lump with her toe. “Let’s explore!” Brooke always found interesting treasures in the meadow: empty birds’ nests, creepy praying mantises,

sparkly rocks. “Come on! You can chase mice and bugs!”

Patches twitched her whiskers and reluctantly got to her feet.

Brooke ran across the lawn until she reached the big field of flowers and tall grass. She could still see her house, but she was far enough away that it felt like an adventure.

Brooke twirled in a circle and tumbled onto the ground, admiring the puffy clouds chugging across the sky. She could see her tree house by the creek at the edge of the forest. A rainbow of flower heads bobbed in the breeze. Being out here always felt magical. “One more month of fourth grade, then we can play all summer long,” she said to the cat.

With a loud purr, Patches curled up beside her for another nap.

“You are the best cat in the world.” Brooke stroked Patches’ long, silky fur. Then she stood and plucked a handful of flowers. “I’ll weave crowns for us and for Izzy, too. She’ll be here soon.”

Since Brooke’s best friend, Izzy, didn’t have a pet, Brooke shared Patches when Izzy visited. They both loved cats more than any other animal. Lots of people thought dogs were the most loyal pet, but Brooke knew Patches would always be by her side.

Brooke sat down with the flowers in her lap. She began tying dandelion and daisy stems together, humming as she worked.

Patches' ears perked up, then she sprang to her feet. With a fast, powerful paw she batted at something fluttering in the air, pinning it to the ground.

Brooke dropped her crown. "Bad kitty! Did you catch another dragonfly?" Brooke leaned over and carefully removed Patches' paw off her prey. "We *like* dragonflies. I hope you didn't hurt it."

